

WILL YOU BE ELIGIBLE FOR E-8 IN FY2011?

START PREPARING NOW!



“Continuing education will be essential for all Sailors to master a wide range of competencies needed to operate in increasing more complex and unpredictable warfighting environments; deal with dramatically broadened access to information in netted battle force operations; lead and operate within a joint force; and exercise sound business practices to resource tomorrow’s fleet.” (NAVADMIN 203/05)

NAVADMIN 203/05 requires a rate relevant associates degree to be eligible for advancement to Senior Chief Petty Officer commencing with fiscal year 2011 selection boards (which convenes in fiscal year 2010) for both active and reserve components.

Steps to a Rate Related Degree

- The Navy College Program Distant Learning Program (NCPDLP) schools provide an accepted method to earn a rating relevant degree through distance learning. The NCPDLP offers the maximum credit for military experience and is supported by Sailor Marine On Line Academic Advisor (SMOLAA). They are not however, the only way to earn a qualifying degree.
- To access colleges and universities with Navy rate related degrees go to your Sailor Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART) at: <https://smart.cnet.navy.mil>. Click on ‘Active Duty/Reserve’ and follow the directions for getting into the SMART website. Once you are in the website, enter your social security number and select OK. Look for Sailor Marine Online Academic Advisor (SMOLAA) just above your name.
- Click on SMOLAA and this will take you to a screen that lists all the colleges and universities that have degrees related to your rate.
- Click on each school and this will take you to a screen that produces your personal Servicemember Opportunity College Navy (SOCNAV) agreement. The SOCNAV document will show how many credits the college may transfer from your SMART transcript. The SOCNAV will also have a column on the left listing courses that are required for the degree and a column to the right of classes and/or CLEP/DSST exams that need to be completed to fulfill to degree. While credits from Navy training, occupations and the CLEP/DSST exams may comprise the majority of a degree, most Sailors will need to take some college courses to complete their degree and meet residency requirements.
- All Sailors, regardless of their educational plans, are now required to pursue credit through CLEP and DSST where applicable, before receiving command authorization for Tuition Assistance. Even if command authorization is given, the NCO is the final fund authorization agent and may deny TA if the CLEP/DSST exam should be taken first. Sailors must be counseled regarding applicable CLEP/DSST exams for their program.
- The matriculated student requirement includes testing accepted CLEP/DSST exams. Once a Sailor reaches the maximum number of testing credits allowed to be transferred in, the Sailor will then be allowed to use TA within the 12 SH credit limits per fiscal year.
- NCOs are going to determine if a Sailor is eligible for TA based on the availability of a CLEP or DSST applicable to the requested course for the degree they are pursuing.
- The Navy wants to ensure Sailors use all avenues available to complete degrees in a timely fashion. The up-tempo of today will continue, which means time is a critical commodity for the Sailor.